

Kiribati

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Kiribati are not available.²⁶⁴² However, some school-aged children are reported to be out of school for reasons that are undocumented.²⁶⁴³

Education is free and compulsory for children ages 6 to 14.²⁶⁴⁴ Basic education includes primary school for grades one through six, and Junior Secondary School for three additional grade levels.²⁶⁴⁵ In 1999, the gross primary enrollment rate was 128 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate is unavailable.²⁶⁴⁶ Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Kiribati. School quality and access to primary education are still challenges, particularly in the outer islands.²⁶⁴⁷

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Part IX, Section 84 of the Employment Ordinance, *Employment of Children and Other Young Persons*, sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years,²⁶⁴⁸ and children under 16 years are prohibited from industrial employment or jobs aboard ships.²⁶⁴⁹ Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in Kiribati, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. The Constitution prohibits forced labor.²⁶⁵⁰ The Penal Code criminalizes the procurement of minors under 15 years of age for the purpose of sexual relations and establishes a penalty of 2 years of imprisonment for

²⁶⁴² This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section for information about sources used. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms, such as the use of children in the illegal drug trade, prostitution, pornography, and trafficking. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section. Such statistics and information may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on the definition of working children, please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section of this report.

²⁶⁴³ UN, *United Nations Common Country Assessment: Kiribati*, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, 2002 [cited May 20, 2004], 29; available from <http://www.undp.org.fj/documents/Kiribati%20CCA%20small.pdf>.

²⁶⁴⁴ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: Kiribati*, Washington, D.C., February 28, 2005, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41645.htm>.

²⁶⁴⁵ *Kiribati Education Policy: National Development Strategies 2002-2003*, [online] [cited July 28, 2005]; available from http://www.janeresture.com/kiribati_edupolicy/index.htm.

²⁶⁴⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Selected Statistics for Kiribati* [Global Education Database], October 13, 2004; available from <http://qesdb.cdie.org/ged/index.html>.

²⁶⁴⁷ ADB, *Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific: Relevance and Progress*, 2003 [cited May 20, 2004]; available from http://www.adb.org/documents/books/MDG_Pacific/mdg.pdf.

²⁶⁴⁸ ILO, *Compilation of annual reports by the International Labor Office*, ILO, [Annual Review Database] 2003 [cited May 20, 2004]; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/Show_ARHTML.

²⁶⁴⁹ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Kiribati*, Section 6d.

²⁶⁵⁰ *The Constitution of Kiribati*, Chapter II, Section 6 (2); available from http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/paclawmat/Kiribati_legislation/Kiribati_Constitution.html.

such offenses.²⁶⁵¹ The Penal Code also bans parents or guardians from prostituting children under 15 years old.²⁶⁵² Child labor laws are enforced by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Employment.²⁶⁵³

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Kiribati continues to work within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to support national priorities and initiatives that include promoting the healthy growth and development of Kiribati's children.²⁶⁵⁴

The government also worked with the ADB on the implementation of its 2003-2005 Country Strategy and Program to address key issues that include poverty reduction and human development. As part of these efforts, the government focused on improving the quality and relevancy of education and expanding the coverage of social services, particularly for people living in the outer islands.²⁶⁵⁵ AusAID and New Zealand's International Aid and Development Agency are also assisting the country to improve education policy. Bilateral assistance for education programs includes developing curriculum materials, advancing teacher training, and facilitating access to basic education.²⁶⁵⁶

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments	
Ratified Convention 138	
Ratified Convention 182	
ILO-IPEC Member	
National Plan for Children	
National Child Labor Action Plan	
Sector Action Plan	

²⁶⁵¹ *Kiribati Penal Code*, (1977), Articles 141-143; available from http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/paclawmat/Kiribati_legislation/Consolidation_1977/Kiribati_Penal_Code.html.

²⁶⁵² *Kiribati Penal Code*.

²⁶⁵³ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2003: Kiribati*, Section 6d.

²⁶⁵⁴ UN, *Kiribati: United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2003-2007)*, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, [online] 2002 [cited July 28, 2005]; available from <http://www.undp.org.fj/documents/UNDAF%20KIRIBATI%2024%20JUNE.doc>.

²⁶⁵⁵ ADB, *Country Strategy and Program Update (2003-2005): Kiribati*, July 2002 [cited July 28, 2005], 6; available from http://www.adb.org/Documents/CSPs/KIR/2002/CSP_KIR_2002.pdf.

²⁶⁵⁶ AusAID, *AusAID Pacific Program Profiles 2003-2004- Kiribati*, Australian Government, 2003 [cited July 28, 2005], 22; available from http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/pac_prog_prof.pdf. See also NZAID, *Strategy for the New Zealand Development Cooperation Programme with Kiribati 2002-2007*, [cited July 28, 2005]; available from <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/programmes/docs/nzaid-kiribati-strategy-0207.pdf>.